

Appl. No. 10/018,626

Amendment dated February 11, 2004

Reply to Non-Final Office Action of October 10, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended): A method of nondestructive, reversible fixing of a coherent layer to a substrate, comprising the steps of reversibly anchoring a nonfibrous coherent layer to a film having either or both of projecting or embedded anchoring elements by applying a liquid or paste form material to a side of the film having the anchoring elements, which material embeds or fills the anchoring elements and sets to form the coherent layer mechanically anchored to the film, wherein the anchoring elements ~~provide mechanical anchorage~~ will remain largely intact after separation of the coherent layer ~~to~~ from the film, and fixing the coherent layer and film to the substrate.

21. (currently amended): The method of claim 20, wherein the coherent layer is ~~anchored by applying a liquid or paste form material to the substrate that sets on the substrate to form the coherent layer, which is nonadhesive or only slightly adhesive to the film.~~

22. (currently amended): The method of claim 20, wherein the film comprises or is coated with a material to which the coherent adhesive layer shows very little or no adhesion.

23. (previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein film comprises or is coated with one or more

Appl. No. 10/018,626

Amendment dated February 11, 2004

Reply to Non-Final Office Action of October 10, 2003

polyolefins, silicone, or fluorine polymers.

24. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the anchoring elements have a length of at least 0.05 mm.

25. (previously presented): The method of claim 24, wherein the anchoring elements have a length of at least 0.2 mm.

26. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein one or more of the anchoring elements project from the surface of the film.

27. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the coherent layer is peeled away from the film and the anchoring elements are sufficiently deformable so that no more than 50% of the anchoring elements lose anchoring function after peeling of the coherent layer from the film.

28. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the coherent layer is peeled away from the film and the anchoring elements comprise a sufficiently deformable material so that at least 30% of the anchoring elements retain anchoring function after peeling of the coherent layer from the film.

29. (previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein the anchoring elements comprise a plastic having a glass transition temperature below 25°C.

Appl. No. 10/018,626

Amendment dated February 11, 2004

Reply to Non-Final Office Action of October 10, 2003

30. (previously presented): The method of claim 29, wherein the anchoring elements comprise a plastic having a glass transition temperature below 10°C.

31. (previously presented): The method of claim 28, wherein the anchoring elements comprise polyethylene or polypropylene.

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the anchoring elements comprise mushroom-shaped elements projecting from the film, said elements having a cap and a stalk, wherein the cap and stalk have a ratio of cross-sectional diameters of less than 10:1.

33. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the coherent layer is peeled away from the film and the coherent layer comprises a material that is sufficiently deformable so that less than 50% of the anchoring elements lose anchoring function after peeling of the coherent layer from the film.

34. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the anchoring elements comprise a material that is nondeformable or substantially nondeformable in the form of a thin layer with a thickness of 0.05 mm to 10 mm.

35. (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the material comprising the anchoring elements is a resilient material having less than 30% deformability.

36. (previously presented): The method of claim 34,

Appl. No. 10/018,626

Amendment dated February 11, 2004

Reply to Non-Final Office Action of October 10, 2003

wherein the material comprising the anchoring elements is a non-resilient material having less than 15% deformability.

37. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the anchoring elements comprise metal, ceramic, glass, or a thermoset or thermoplastic having a glass transition temperature of at least 0°C.

38. (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the thermoset or thermoplastic has a glass transition temperature of at least 25°C.

39. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the anchoring elements are shaped to slide out from the coherent layer when it is peeled from the film.

40. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the coherent nonfibrous layer consists of a single layer.

41. (previously presented): The method of claim 40, wherein the coherent nonfibrous layer consists of a plaster, paint, lacquer, sealing, road marking, or PU foam layer.

42. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the coherent nonfibrous layer comprises at least one layer.

43. (previously presented): The method of claim 42, wherein coherent nonfibrous layer comprises an adhesive

Appl. No. 10/018,626

Amendment dated February 11, 2004

Reply to Non-Final Office Action of October 10, 2003

layer.

44. (previously presented): The method of claim 43, wherein the adhesive layer comprises an adhesive having a glass transition temperature below 25°C in its set state.

45. (previously presented): The method of claim 43, wherein the adhesive layer is based on a dispersion adhesive.

46. (previously presented): The method of claim 42, wherein the coherent nonfibrous layer comprises a surface layer.

47. (previously presented): The method of claim 46, wherein the surface layer comprises tile, wood, wall covering, or plastic molding.

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the film is fixed to the substrate by adhesives, nails, or screws.

49. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the substrate is a wall, ceiling, or floor of a building or motor vehicle.

50. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the film is mechanically fixed to the substrate by anchoring elements either directly or indirectly via a coherent nonfibrous layer.

Appl. No. 10/018,626

Amendment dated February 11, 2004

Reply to Non-Final Office Action of October 10, 2003

51. (previously presented): The method of claim 50, wherein the coherent nonfibrous layer fixing the film to the substrate comprises an adhesive layer.

52. (previously presented): The method of claim 51, wherein the adhesive layer fixing the film to the substrate adheres to the substrate at least 50% stronger than to the coherent nonfibrous layer anchored to the film.

53. (previously presented): The method of claim 52, wherein the coherent nonfibrous layer anchored to the film and the adhesive layer fixing the film to the substrate comprise the same material.

54. (previously presented): The method of claim 20, wherein the film having the anchoring elements has holes making up at most 10% of its surface.